

July 11th 1862

Hon. A. W. Bradford — Gov. Maryland

Sir:

I took the liberty some weeks since of calling your attention to a fugitive slave case tried in Alexandria and which resulted in the complete failure of the claimant to recover his property — It occurs to me Sir, that now since you have responded so patriotically in your Proclamation to the call of the President for more troops to suppress the rebellion, would be the opportune time for you as the Executive of the State to interpose for the restitution and protection of the slave property of the people of Maryland — I do not believe the people of this State or any of the Border States will come to the rescue this time with half the alacrity and enthusiasm, that they would if they had some guaranty for their slave property — The people will not voluntarily embark in a cause which they believe will be suicidal to their interests —

I know there are many citizens of Maryland who are as loyal as Mr. Lincoln himself, and whose farms are uncultivated because their slaves are now fugitives and are under the protection of the Federal Army — There are at this time hundreds of slaves from Maryland now in the streets of Alexandria enjoying the most perfect immunity and defiantly confront their masters — The civil law is no longer operative in Alexandria although martial law has not been proclaimed there — The execution of the fugitive slave law has become a perfect nullity in Washington because all Maryland slaves have escaped to Alexandria and its vicinity, where they receive Military protection — Is it not possible for the people of this State to obtain some remedy?

I am Sir, with great respect
Your obt. servt.
Jno. H. Payne

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis July 14th 1862

Dr. John H. Payne

Sir:

I have just received yours of the 11th Inst. calling my attention to fugitive slaves from Maryland now roaming about Alexandria, and suggesting that since I have responded by my proclamation to the recent call of the President for more troops I might very opportunely interpose "for the restitution and protection of the slave property of the people of Maryland"

In responding as I have done to the call for additional volunteers to defend the Government and